

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065234
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DLOS-06 SAL-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER:CED
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN
-----240810Z 070321 /21

R 240046Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO CINCPAC
ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065234

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; DOD FOR ADM ROBERT P HILTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRCLO PROTESTS HARASSMENT OF PRC VESSELS BY
USN AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 107559, MAY 4, 1976, STATE 117055, MAY 13, 1976

1. PRCLO COUNSELOR TSIENTA-YUNG AT HIS REQUEST CALLED ON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN AFTERNOON MARCH 23 TO
PROTEST ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF CHINESE OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS
BY USN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT.

2. TSIENTA SAID THAT TWO PRC CIVILIAN SHIPS, THE "HSIANG
YANG HUNG NO. 5" AND THE "HSIANG YANG HUNG NO. 12", UNDER
THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHINESE STATE BUREAU OF OCEANOGRAPHY,
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HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN HYDROGRAPHIC AND METEOROLOGICAL
SURVEY AND RESEARCH. AT NOON ON MARCH 21, AT 3 DEGREES
31 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE AND 139 DEGREES 39 MINUTES EAST
LONGITUDE, A US NAVY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FLYING AT A
LOW LEVEL REPEATEDLY FLEW AROUND AND HARASSED THE SHIPS
THUS INTERFERING IN NORMAL NAVIGATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
VESSELS. THIS, TSIENTA SAID, VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL NAVIGA-

TION ON THE HIGH SEAS AND CONSTITUTED AN "UNFRIENDLY ACT"

TOWARD CHINA. RECALLING "SIMILAR HARASSMENT LAST YEAR,"
TSIEN COMPLAINED ABOUT REPETITION AND ASKED THAT THE USG
TAKE MEASURES TO STOP SUCH PROVOCATION.

3. GLEYSTEN PROMISED WE WOULD INVESTIGATE THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF TSIEN'S ALLEGATIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT
AS A RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S PROTEST WE HAD CHECKED OUR
RECONNAISSANCE PROCEDURES AND CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE
CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND DID NOT
JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY OR NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF VESSELS ON
HIGH SEAS. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS CHECK INTO THIS
PARTICULAR CASE. GLEYSTEN NOTED THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS
MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THIS MATTER. WE FELT
THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC AREA
REQUIRED SUCH VIGILANCE. MOST OF SUCH ACTIVITIES WERE
DIRECTED AT CHINA'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOR.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE, TSIEN COMMENTED THAT
REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS
ON QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, ONE POINT WAS
CERTAIN: FREE PASSAGE ON THE HIGH SEAS WAS IN CONFORMITY
WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. IF US RECONNAISSANCE WAS
DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY, IT WAS
DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN HARASSMENT OF CHINESE SHIPS.

5. GLEYSTEN REPLIED THAT SHIPS OF MANY DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AIRCRAFT PERFORMING RECON-
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NAISSANCE. HE CONCLUDED MEETING, STATING HE UNDERSTOOD
CHINESE REQUEST, AND REITERATING THAT US AIRCRAFT ARE
INSTRUCTED NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY KIND OF HARASSMENT.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RRHART

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065234

FOL RPT STATE 065234 ACTION PEKING HONG KONG INFO CINCPAC
ISA WASHDC 24 MAR 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065234

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, SHIP HARASSMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HETTHAYER:CED
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770100-1215
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: PRCLO PROTESTS HARASSMENT OF PRC VESSELS BY USN AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, CH, US, (TSIEN TA-YUNG)
To: PEKING HONG KONG
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